Message

From: EPAResearchCompass [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C1E8F11508674C3C954553A1129D33E5-EPARESEARCH]
Sent: 1/16/2018 8:50:08 PM
To: ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c735272eef941588aefd9a05ed28823-ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs]
CC: Lincoln, Larry [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8248d03a1441414db7754db201ebec45-Lincoln, Larry]; Barnett, Felicia [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5773b45cae5142fe950861dd6146f1e9-Barnett, Felicia]; Carter, Bobbi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f16dcafe85fc418ebd1651be2e8ab82d-Carter, Bobbi]; Gettle, Jeaneanne [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d8e72aa7e1894faea44006fd9f22b637-Gettle, Jeaneanne]; Taylor, Dawn [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b984d00ec06544e498ee5d986f97047c-Taylor, Dawn]; Klinger, Adam [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=346d5466632f4967adc7169c8d2ce4fd-Klinger, Adam]; Widener, Charles (Chuck) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=db4c02702e5a4d25aabff1cf8bfa3e36-Widener, Ch]; Liljegren, Jennifer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c7098a838cd34f75b8878571fe95d939-JLiljegr]; Pollard, Solomon [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=16cdf700f8024145847a2770b84abae3-Pollard, Solomon]
Subject: Weekly Compass: January 16, 2018

Weekly Update: 1/16/2018

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see past issues, visit the Weekly Compass archive on ORD@work.

Weekly Note from Jennifer

ORDers- Last week, ORD's senior leadership had a very productive conversation about the steps we need to take to make sure we are operating in the most efficient and impactful way to meet EPA priorities. The Administrator came by the meeting to encourage us in our efforts. We are

working diligently on a variety of action items and will report our progress at the February 22nd Town Hall meeting.

Our work on PFAS continues. Together with OW, OCIR, and other members of the cross-agency PFAS group, we briefed bipartisan staff from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on PFAS last Thursday. You can see photos from both meetings below.

This week we will conduct our second monthly business review, checking in our metrics to assess progress on achieving our goals. Among the performance metrics that will be discussed are ORD's draft Mission Measures, which will be evaluated at all monthly business reviews, and ORD's Strategic Measure, which evaluates the quality, usability, and timeliness of our research.

I hope you were able to pause and reflect this past weekend on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His messages are timeless, for example this one – "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

As always, keep up the excellent work you are doing to protect human health and the environment. *-Jennifer*

Administrator Pruitt stopped by ORD's Executive Council meeting last week

L to R: OLEM's Kathleen Raffaele, OCSPP's Jeff Morris, Bruce Rodan, Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, and OW's Peter Grevatt at the PFAS briefing for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Quick Updates

- Don't forget to check out the open opportunities on Talent Hub!
- You can read the This Week @ EPA newsletter here.
- Upcoming webinars:

- Webinar on new app for EPA small purchase requests: Wednesday, January 17, 2-3 pm ET
- Legal Research for Everyone: Wednesday, January 17, 2-2:30 pm ET
- EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Urban Background Study: Wednesday, January 17, 3-4 pm ET
- Internal SSWR FY17 Product/Output Delivery Webinar for Partners: Monday, January 22, 1-2:30 pm ET
- CSS Science Webinar Series: Suspect screening and non-targeted analysis of drinking water using point-of-use filters: Tuesday, January 23, 1-2 pm ET
- Underground Transport Remediation Research: Tuesday, January 23, 2-3 pm ET
- Development and Distribution of ToxCast and Tox21 High-Throughput Chemical Screening Assay Method Descriptions: Thursday, January 25, 11-12 pm ET

Faces of ORD: IOAA's Samantha Linkins

In the Lab:

Helping EPA Region 3 Assist States to Restore Streams in Chesapeake Bay

Today, NHEERL's Paul Mayer will meet with Region 3 to discuss results of a Regional Applied Research Project addressing stream restoration. The approach Dr. Mayer evaluated is being used increasingly by state and local jurisdictions in the Chesapeake Bay to meet total maximum daily load (TMDL) and municipal separate stormwater sewer system permits for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Field observations have shown that Regenerative Stormwater Conveyances incorrectly sited within perennial streams can have adverse impacts on water quality and aquatic life, thereby outweighing the benefits of stormwater retention. State project reviewers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA have a strong need for peer-reviewed data that demonstrate the permits they approve are sufficient to restore stream functions. Maryland is an example of a state with a major need in this area, as it has committed to 2 million linear feet of "stream restoration" in its watershed plan to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

Environmental Health Training Program

Today through Thursday, NCEA's Jason Fritz will be providing training on environmental human health risk assessment based upon NCEA's Risk Assessment and Training Experience (RATE) course modules, as part of an Environmental Health Training Program in Guangzhou, P.R. China, organized jointly by the South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), P.R. China, and the Environmental Defense Fund.

State Department Support

NCEA's Jason Sacks provided scientific and technical support to the State Department on the interpretation of a recent study published in JAMA by Di et al. that examined associations between short-term PM2.5 and O3 exposure, daily mortality, and reported associations below the level of the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This support was requested for the purposes of providing information to U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide on the health risks of PM2.5 exposures.

Helping Utah Protect Great Salt Lake

Tomorrow and Thursday, NHEERL's Jim Hagy will meet with state staff and others hosted by the Utah Department of Water Quality to address the state priority of improving water quality in the Willard Spur embayment, a coastal bay of the Great Salt Lake. Dr. Hagy serves on the Willard Spur Science Panel, providing research to support Utah's goal of developing and promulgating water quality standards to protect the ecosystem from nutrient pollution and other stressors.

Lead Support

NCEA's Ellen Kirrane and James Brown will provide technical support to OPPT through the Dust Lead Hazard Standards workgroup, an OSP-led regulatory support workgroup that has representation from across ORD. The Ninth Circuit recently granted a petition to compel EPA to act upon a rulemaking petition that would address whether to revise the dust hazard standard as well as the definition of lead-based paint. EPA was ordered to issue a proposed rule within 90 days of the court decision and a final rule within one year of the proposal. James Brown has provided ongoing support to OPPT on the lead hazard standard prior to the reactivation of the workgroup.

Meeting with Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), Chicago, IL

Last week, NRMRL's Tom Speth, EPA's Great Lakes Science Advisory Board's Research Coordination Committee member, and NRMRL researchers, met with GLNPO Director Tinka Hyde and her staff to discuss issues impacting health of the Great Lakes and how these issues can be managed. Specific discussions will cover nutrient trading programs, harmful algal bloom formation and treatment, fecal source tracking, and carbon cycling. This meeting is the outcome of discussions at the State of Lake Michigan 2017 conference held in November.

SETAC Call for Applications on High Throughput Screening

There has been increased emphasis on using in vitro and small scale in vivo methods, amenable to high-throughput screening (HTS). While there is opportunity to use HTS data and computational tools to aid environmental risk assessments, those applications are hampered by a lack of detailed understanding of the HTS data sets and associated computational tools that are available, what their strengths and limitations are, and how they can be appropriately applied to a wide range of environmental risk assessment questions.

On April 16-18 in Durham, NC, there will be a SETAC Focused Topic Meeting on High Throughput Screening and related topics. The overall purpose of this Focused Topic Meeting is to provide toxicologists and environmental risk assessors an introduction to high throughput data and tools. Through a diverse program, participants will learn about the state of the science of high throughput toxicology and be equipped with the background to critically evaluate how that science could be employed in a broad range of environmental risk assessment scenarios. On 2/14, early-bird registration ends and abstracts for presentations are due.

Update on the Denka Request for Correction

NCEA's Kris Thayer and Steve Dutton participated in a cross-agency briefing regarding the Denka Performance Elastomers Request for Correction (RfC) of the chloroprene IRIS assessment. The briefing included representatives from OECA, OAR, Office of Public Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, and Region 6 in an effort to coordinate support being provided to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality on this issue. ORD provided an update on the status of the response to the RfC which is to be communicated via the Office of Environmental Information by the end of January, 2018.

Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) Workgroup

On Thursday, ORD's Chemical Safety for Sustainability research program is hosting a kick-off meeting for the EPA Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) research workgroup. Chemicals that are potential developmental neurotoxicants could interact with important biological processes leading to problems with the brain development in utero. The DNT workgroup is bringing together ORD staff, as well as EPA Program Office and Regional partners, to discuss alternative methods for evaluating chemicals for developmental neurotoxicity, applications for using new methods for decision-making, and to explore collaborative opportunities using case studies. This workgroup stems from a previous briefing on DNT held on December 8, 2016 in RTP. The primary goal of the Workgroup is to provide advice and guidance to the CSS NPD on the top priorities for DNT research.

Sampling at Fort Campbell, KY

Today and tomorrow, NRMRL's Laura Boczek and Mark Rodgers will conduct sampling and testing at U.S. Army barracks where new toilets are being installed. They will test for free chlorine residual and water temperature to understand water quality changes in the plumbing system before and after the new toilets are installed. The goal of their visit is to tour the barracks, meet with local staff who could be involved in future water testing, and collect and test water samples in vacant rooms.

Adverse Outcome Pathways Workshop

This week, CSS is hosting a workshop involving program (OPPT, OPP, OSCP, OLEM, OW) and regional office research partners to discuss the development and use of adverse outcome pathways (AOPs). The CSS team is collecting input on how research partners use AOPs in the implementation of their programs, what pathways are of most interest and need further development, and what are the barriers to the use of AOPs. The results of this workshop will inform CSS research planning efforts.

Filling Modeling Gaps in Ecological Risk Assessments

NHEERL's Nathan Pollesch will join others from government, industry, and academia who were selected competitively to participate in a workshop this week focused on developing ecological models that can be applied in ecological risk assessments and identifying data gaps. Existing ecological modeling predicts the effects of diverse chemical contaminants on organism growth and survival but does not consider dynamic interactive effects of stressors and constraints, such as availability of light, nutrients, or food quality. Dr. Pollesch's research focuses on developing models to assess the impacts of pesticides on wildlife populations. The workshop is hosted by the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, a National Science Foundation center with goals to foster cross-disciplinary study in mathematical biology and to develop researchers who can design and lead cross-disciplinary collaborations on fundamental and applied biological questions.

Connecting Benefits of Nature to Human Health

NHEERL scientists Rebeca de Jesus-Crespo and Rich Fulford are advancing the science that connects ecosystem services to human health and well-being endpoints. Their research demonstrates how green spaces can provide "buffering" that may protect against health impacts by, for example, removing pollutants from air and water or mitigating heat and water hazards. Most existing research in this discipline focuses on associations between ecological processes and human health, but there are few studies on buffering as a means of directly linking the presence of green spaces to physical health and disease. Results support causal linkages between green spaces and several ecosystem goods and services, and provide sufficient evidence to link reduced heat morbidities to green spaces. There is insufficient evidence linking green spaces to gastrointestinal disease prevention, and there are inconsistencies when

assessing the link between green space and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. These results help to shape future eco-health research in this discipline and to define priorities for assisting community partners in managing green spaces to provide human health benefits.

PFAS Meetings

Today, OSA will host a call between EPA (ORD, OW, OCSPP, OLEM) and ATSDR scientists to discuss the ATSDR Draft Toxicological Profile on selected PFAS chemicals.

Tomorrow, NRMRL's Tom Speth is serving on the Water Research Foundation's Technical Advisory Committee for management, analysis, removal, fate and transport of PFAS in water. Other organizations involved in this committee include Aqua America Inc., North Carolina State University, Water Research Australia Limited, Hazen and Sawyer, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, and American Water Works Association. The purpose of this call is to develop objectives and a multi-year research agenda.

ORD/OW Support for EPA Regions' Efforts To Protect Coral Ecosystems

On Thursday, NHEERL's Bill Fisher and NCEA's Jordan West will brief OW and ORD's Bruce Rodan on EPA's role in the Interagency Coral Reef Task Force and on the long-standing collaboration between ORD and OW to provide data and information to assist regions in protecting coral reefs. The briefing comes in advance of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Steering Committee meeting in February, where EPA will play a lead role in both the climate change and watershed workgroups. Coral reef research in NHEERL has focused on technical aspects of implementing biological water quality standards under the Clean Water Act, characterizing sediment and contaminant effects, evaluating ecosystem benefits, and applying structured decision methods to engage community stakeholders in coral reef issues.

Presentation on Lead Pipe Scales to Hamilton County

On Thursday, Mike DeSantis (EPA contractor, Pegasus) is presenting to public health officials during a meeting of the Hamilton County Lead and Healthy Homes Collaborative. Mike is presenting on work he has completed with NRMRL researcher Mike Schock. The presentation, entitled "Destabilization of Lead Pipe Scales in a Long-Term Vacant Home in Cincinnati," describes how the mineralogy of lead pipes can break down over extended time periods during which there is no water flow or contact with disinfectant residual, and how regular flushing can help restore the pipe surfaces. NRMRL scientists Darren Lytle, Mike Schock, and Simoni Triantafyllidou are also attending the meeting. The collaborative brings together public health experts in the Cincinnati area to share knowledge about minimizing the risks of lead exposure.

Journal Article: Life Cycle Assessment of Munitions Residues

NRMRL's Brian Gullett, along with U.S. Army collaborators Michael Walsh, Marianne Walsh, Matthew Bigl, and University of Dayton's Johanna Aurell, have published "Improving post-detonation energetics residues estimations for the Life Cycle Environmental Assessment process for munitions," in *Chemosphere.* This research indicates that aerial combustion products analysis can provide a valuable supplement to energetics deposition data in the life cycle environmental assessment process, but is insufficient alone to account for total residual energetics. This study demonstrates a need for the environmental testing of munitions to quantify energetics residues from live-fire training.

TSCA Support

The CSS team continues to provide support to OPPT for the successful implementation of the revised TSCA with ongoing activities on: the development of the alternative toxicity testing

strategy document; informing options for chemical prioritization, and; the continued improvement of databases, tools, and approaches used to estimate chemical exposure.

Overview of CSS Tools Published

NERL and NCCT recently published the article, *Integrating tools for non-targeted analysis research and chemical safety evaluations at the US EPA* in the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*. The article provides an overview of many CSS tools and describes an integrated framework for using them to support non-targeted analysis in support of informing exposure assessment and chemical prioritization efforts. The article also describes EPA's non-targeted analysis workshop and collaborative trial. This article is an informative and useful resource for Program Office, Regional, and State partners. The authors of the article are Jon Sobus (NERL), John Wambaugh (NCCT), Kristin Isaacs (NERL), AJ Williams (NCCT), Andrew McEachran (NCCT, ORISE), Ann Richard (NCCT), Chris Grulke (NCCT), Elin Ulrich (NERL), JE Rager (ORISE, ToxStrategies), Mark Strynar (NERL), and Seth Newton (NERL).

NERL Researchers Interviewed for NASA TEMPO Mission Video

NERL researchers Rachelle Duvall and Jim Szykman provided interviews last week for an video by NASA about their upcoming mission, *Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring Pollution* (TEMPO). TEMPO is an instrument that will be launched in 2018/2019 to monitor major air pollutants including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde, particulate matter and others across North America on an hourly basis. In the interviews, EPA researchers talked about how the TEMPO mission can contribute to improved air quality monitoring and forecasting. ORD is a partner in the TEMPO mission and will be providing ground-based validation measurement support and applications development in preparation for the mission.

NERL Scientists Contributing to International Space Station Experiment

NERL's Joachim Pleil has been asked by the NASA Engineering Safety Center to work on a team that will assist the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) with evaluating new monopropellants for use aboard the International Space Station. Monopropellants are used for refueling Free Flyers, which are small vehicles used to move satellites and experimental platforms to different orbits. These new fuels are proposed to replace hydrazine, which is highly toxic. The team will develop a plan for testing different formulations of hydroxyl ammonium nitrate and ammonium dinitramide for fire and explosion risk in microgravity.

NHSRC Supports ECOS Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council

NHSRC provided support to the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC), a program of the Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) and managed by the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). They helped develop guidance documents on the Remediation Management of Complex Sites, the Bioavailability in Contaminated Soil: Considerations for Human Health Risk Assessment, and fact sheets for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) on the Site Characterization Tools, Sampling Techniques, and Laboratory Analytical Methods. These guidance documents and fact sheets are tailored to the needs of state regulatory program personnel who are tasked with making informed and timely decisions regarding all-hazards conditions and impacted sites.

2017 Five-Year Review of the 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria (RWQC)

On January 5, Cindy Roberts (OSP) and others from ORD provided consolidated comments to OW on the second draft of this document. This synthesis document will inform the Agency's decision-making on whether or not revisions are needed for the 2012 RWQC.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Monitoring in Missouri

On January 8, Amy Shields (Region 7 RSL) convened a call with staff from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Blake Schaeffer (NERL) and EPA Region 7 staff to discuss helping MDNR use data from ORD's Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) project to better predict HABs throughout the state.

Superfund

- On January 8, Diana Cutt (OSP) provided technical support for the Ringwood Mines Superfund Site in Ringwood Borough, NJ, where 1,4-dioxane was recently discovered in the groundwater. Diana worked with ORD's Groundwater Technical Support Center to review and assess the accuracy of hydrologic modeling information provided by the site's responsible party.
- On January 8, Kira Lynch (OSP) met with the Washington State Department of Ecology to discuss responses to public comments on the proposed remediation alternatives for the Occidental Chemical Superfund site in Tacoma, WA, where industrial waste disposal practices have contaminated the site's soil and groundwater.

2015 P3 Winner Update

A 2015 P3 Phase II team from Western Washington University recently submitted their final report detailing the success they have had and the future steps they hope to take. This interdisciplinary team used the P3 grant to design a functional prototype of their Smart Solar Window, which won the grand prize and $15,000 at the Alaska Airlines Environmental Innovation Challenge, a competition that draws university teams from throughout the region. Additionally, the university signed a licensing agreement for the Smart Solar Window technology with the company UbiQD, which hopes to develop solar windows for sale in the near future.

Grantee Publication on Environmental Monitoring

The STAR Tribal Environmental Health Research Grantee, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium has published a groundbreaking research article titled, *"Developing a Sentinel-based Baja California Sur Rural Mexico Monitoring Program: Lessons learned from Alaska"* in the *Journal of Natural Resources and Society*. The peer-reviewed article details how the innovative STAR project for the monitoring network and methodology for analyzing the local Alaskan environmental organisms can be expanded and applied successfully in a Sentinel-Based Baja California to Mexico Monitoring Program. This environmental organism monitoring network is a part of the revolutionary environmental health monitoring concept called the One Health in the Americas Network which aims to achieve comprehensive environmental health assessments across the Americas.

Grantee Publication on Air Pollution and DNA

The prevalence of asthma continues to increase, raising public health concerns. Previous studies have found that air pollutants can alter DNA methylation in utero, and that children are at greater risk of developing asthma when exposed to higher concentrations of air pollutants. Researchers from the NIEHS/EPA Children's Center at UC Berkeley/Stanford University aimed to identify specific sites of DNA methylation, and the pollutants associated with this methylation, to improve understanding of asthma pathophysiology. In a recently published study, researchers collected blood samples from study participants and measured air pollution levels in order to estimate the effects on DNA methylation. Results show that asthma was significantly associated with higher methylation in regions of the Foxp3 and IL10 genes. They also found that short- and

long-term exposures to high levels of CO, NO2, and PM2.5 were associated with altered DNA methylation in those same genes. This study provides novel information by identifying specific gene regions that are sensitive to air pollution.

Grantee Publication on Air Pollution Related Pediatric Morbidity

Neighborhood-level socioeconomic status (SES) is a factor contributing vulnerability to air pollution-related pediatric asthma morbidity in Atlanta. The Georgia Tech/Emory Clean Air Research Center, along with research from STAR Grantee James Mulholland and colleagues, examined this topic. The new study, published in *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, analyzed Emergency department (ED) visit data for 5–18 years old with a diagnosis of asthma in Atlanta during 2002–2008 and ambient concentrations of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, fine particulate matter and elemental carbon estimated by using ambient monitoring data and chemical transport model simulations. The analysis shows stronger associations in the highest and lowest SES quartiles. Stronger air pollution–pediatric asthma associations were found for areas with 20% of the population living in poverty, suggesting children living in low SES environments appear to be especially vulnerable.

Grantee Publication on Wastewater Treatment Systems

Researchers and students at the University of South Florida, part of the RAINmgt Nutrient Center, published an article in *Water Research*, evaluating the sustainability of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTSs) with a focus on coastal systems in the Tampa Bay, Florida area. The study evaluated 8 different scenarios including conventional systems such as septic tanks, and advanced systems including aerobic treatment units (ATUs) and passive nitrogen reduction systems. Life cycle assessment and life cycle cost analysis were used to evaluate the different systems and scenarios. Advanced systems were shown to be more effective in removing nutrients (98% advanced vs 63% conventional total nitrogen removal). However, advanced systems had higher environmental impacts throughout the manufacturing, operations, and maintenance phases and higher energy and material costs. This highlights the need to develop and use recycled materials in advanced systems as well as develop energy-efficient components such as aerators. Moreover, to reduce expenses associated with system operation and maintenance, procedures for onsite energy generation need to be developed including innovative approaches that allow homeowners to maintain their own systems.

Webinar for Minnesota DOH on Rapid Exposure and Dosimetry Research

On January 23, NCCT and NERL scientists will participate in an ORD webinar to provide the Minnesota Department of Health (MN DOH) with an overview of ORD's rapid exposure and dosimetry research. MN DOH has expressed interest in learning more about EPA's computational toxicology and exposure research, data and online tools to possibly use in their chemical risk assessments. ORD has already met several times with MN DOH staff to get a better understanding of their interest, their risk assessment process and to identify next steps for providing overviews of our research, data and online tools. MN DOH is particularly interested in assessing the risk of emerging drinking water contaminants.

Research on Cumulative Risk Published

A NERL led project on cumulative risk recently published a paper on the risks from combined exposures to phthalates. The article applies an exposure-based approach to the evaluation of cumulative risks to the most recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) biomarker data on six phthalates. The paper found that less than 1% of the surveyed individuals had predicted of combined exposures of potential concern, but that of this small group 40% would have been missed had a cumulative assessment not been performed. Three of the

phthalates were the primary drivers of combined risks suggesting that they would be good candidates for future toxicity studies of chemical interaction.

In the Office:

Panel Event to Commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Please join Administrator Scott Pruitt tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. EST, for a panel event to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's theme is, *"MLK50 Forward: Together We Win with Love for Humanity."* There are two options for participating in the event:

- In person: The event will be held in WJC East Building, room 1152.
- Live broadcast: The event will be broadcast through EPAtv, available using only Internet Explorer while on the EPA network and cannot be accessed remotely. The video recording will be available on EPAtv On-Demand the following day for employees who are unable to participate live.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations should contact Kristin P. Tropp at (202) 559-0006. For additional information on this event, please contact Dr. Lester C. Facey at (202) 566-1321 or facey.lester@epa.gov.

Status of Lotus Notes Applications

At the end of calendar year 2017, many Lotus Notes Applications were migrated to other software platforms. There are still some Lotus Notes applications in use, but they will be migrated in 2018. OSIM has created an ORD Lotus Notes Applications website to provide information on ORD and selected Agency-wide applications that are still available via Lotus Notes and the estimated timetable for their migration to other software platforms. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact customer service representative Allen Johnson at 202-564-0693.

Accolades:

Award Winning Poster

An ACE poster entitled, "Low Cost Air Quality Sensor Deployment and Citizen Science: The Peñuelas Project," authored by Steven Reece (NERL) et al., received recognition at the 4th International Electronic Conference on Sensors and Applications (ECSA-4). The award winning poster will inform a future paper, which has been invited to be published in a special edition of the journal, *Sensors*.

In the Community:

EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Program

Tomorrow, EPA-RTP's Community Engagement and STEM Education Program will host ten students who are learning about Agriscience at Camelot Academy in Durham, N.C. Activities will include a campus tour, speed mentoring, and hands-on learning about EPA science. Also tomorrow, EPA-RTP's Community Engagement and STEM Education Program will judge student projects at the STEM Fair at the Triangle Math and Science Academy in Cary.

Faces of ORD: IOAA's Samantha Linkins

Pictured: Sam in Lofoten, Norway.

Name: Samantha Linkins
Job/Position: Communication Specialist and Congressional Lead for ORD
L/C/O or Program: IOAA, Science Communication

1. When did you start at EPA?
I started at EPA in 2008 as an intern while I was studying at the University of Maryland.

2. What's the most interesting thing about your job?
Oh man. Probably just the fact that I get to work on such a broad range of topics. Doing communication and congressional work in the IOAA, I get to help out on so many different things. Everything ORD does is interesting, so I love that I get to learn about all of it and work with people with all sorts of backgrounds.

3. What's the most interesting thing in your workspace?
My workspace is a disaster, so there's lots of weird, stupid stuff littered about. But the most interesting-for-the-purposes-of-Faces-of-ORD is probably the scraps of Justin Bieber wrapping paper that Liz Blackburn, our esteemed and highly professional Chief of Staff, once plastered all over my cubicle. She did this to my cube and Megan Maguire's cube as a prank a few years ago when we were out of the office. It was a bit of an eyesore, so I've taken most of it down (sorry, Liz!), but every now and then I find a piece of Justin Bieber's face that managed to evade the trash.

4. What's your favorite thing to do (besides come to work)?
I love writing songs, and I'm currently working on a space opera about intragalactic postal workers (I use the term "opera" incredibly loosely). I work on it in fits and spurts, so when I'm not fitsing or spurtsing, my favorite thing to do is sleep.

5. What's your favorite lunch spot?
There's a sunny little spot near my workspace where my coworkers and I gather to eat together. I adore my coworkers, so it's my favorite spot for lunch.

6. If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
To know what people are reading on their Kindles while taking public transportation.

7. What is your number one New Year's resolution?
To finally watch High School Musical.

8. Describe any steps you take in your daily life to protect the environment.
One small thing I do is bring in my compost from home to work. Last fall, the DC offices finally got compost bins, so I've been dutifully bringing in my bio-bag full of food scraps each week. So, if you're wondering who the smelly trash lady is on the metro, it's probably me.